

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A drive device, comprising:

first drive means containing a working fluid and operated in response to a change in volume of said working fluid; and

5 second drive means connected to said first drive means and controlling inflow and outflow of the working fluid relative to the first drive means.

2. The drive device according to claim 1, wherein said first drive means comprises:

10 a first cylinder containing the working fluid;

a first piston reciprocating within said first cylinder;

a heating means used for heating said first piston; and

15 an actuation rod operated in conjunction with both the first piston and the heating means to output drive force to a target unit needing the drive force.

3. The drive device according to claim 2, wherein said second drive means comprises:

a second cylinder communicating with said first cylinder so as to control flow rate of the working fluid within the first cylinder;

20 a second piston reciprocating within said second cylinder; and

control means for controlling movement of said second piston.

4. A drainage control device for washing machines, comprising:

25 first drive means containing a working fluid and operated in response to a change in volume of said working fluid; and

second drive means connected to said first drive means and controlling inflow and outflow of the working fluid relative to the first drive means,

whereby the drainage control device controls drainage of water in accordance with an operational mode of a washing machine.

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5. The drainage control device according to claim 4, wherein said first drive means comprises:

a first cylinder containing the working fluid;

a first piston reciprocating within said first cylinder;

10 a heating means used for heating said first piston; and

an actuation rod operated in conjunction with both the first piston and the heating means to open or closing a drain port.

15 6. The drainage control device according to claim 4, wherein said second drive means comprises:

a second cylinder communicating with said first cylinder so as to control flow rate of the working fluid within the first cylinder;

a second piston reciprocating within said second cylinder; and

control means for controlling movement of said second piston.

20 7. The drainage control device according to claim 5, wherein said heating means is a heater connected to an electrically conductive member electrically activated by a power source.

25 8. The drainage control device according to claim 6, wherein said control

means is a coil connected to an electrically conductive member electrically activated by a power source.

9. The drainage control device according to claim 5, wherein said
5 actuation rod is normally biased by an elastically biasing member in a direction.

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